THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) There is no separate target fixed for sugar exports to Indonesia during the current financial year.

(b) As per the information furnished by Indian Sugar and General Industry Export corporation, it has exported 1,31,273.95 MT of sugar to Indonesia during the period from April '96 to 31st Jan.'97.

(c) Does not arise.

Barriers on the Movement of Skilled Labourers

4010. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian services like software consultancy are losing their edge in the global market due to protective and non-tariff barriers imposed on the movement of skilled labours by North America and Europe;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any representations in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action initiated during 1996-97 proposed during 1997-98 to take up the issue with WTO to ensure meaningful balance in market area benefits in the service sector; and

(d) the details of the action taken/ proposed for redressal of the issue at multilateral, regional and bilateral forums, result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Even though Indian software exports have grown at a rapid pace in the past, they do face protective and non-tariff barriers in developed countries specially United States of America by way of restrictive visa regulations; requirement of payment of salary equivalent to the salary paid to local employees requirement of payment of social security taxes etc. The Government is aware of these problems as a result of interaction with trade and industry and through their various communications.

(c) and (d) The negotiations on movement of natural persons in WTO were concluded on 28th July, 1995 with the approval of Council for Trade in Services to give it legal status in the form of "The Third Protocol to the General Agreement on Trade in Services" and "The Decision on the Movement of Natural Persons". The Council for Trade in Services has also established a Committee, known as "The Committee on Specific Commitments" to monitor the implementation of specific commitments, *inter alia*, related to movement of natural persons. However, the issue of providing greater market access to movement of "Natural Persons" is being raised in WTO, other multilateral and bilateral fora from time to time as appropriate.

खाद्य तेल के स्थान पर तिलहनों का आयात

4011. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 18 अप्रैल, 1997 के "दि आब्जर्वर" में "परमिट आयलसीड्स इम्पोर्ट आफ इंस्टेड एडिबल आयल एस ई ए" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि देश की "सालवेन्ट एक्सट्रेक्टर्स एसोसिएशन" ने यह मांग की है कि देश में खाद्य तेल के स्थान पर तिलहनों का आयात किया जाए;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में तेल निकालने की औद्योगिक क्षमता का 60 प्रतिशत अपर्युक्त पड़ा हुआ है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार का क्या आकलन है तथा खाद्य तेल के स्थान पर तिलहनों का आयात करने में क्या कठिनाइयां हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रामैया): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) से (घ) वर्तमान निर्यात और आयात नीति के अंतर्गत, तेलहन का आयात वाध्यमीकृत ढंग से जारी है। निर्यात और आयात नीति की समीक्षा, लगातार की जाती रहती है और इसमें परिवर्तन, मांग और आपूर्ति, घरेलू उत्पादन, भविष्य में अनुमानित मांग और उत्पादकों और प्रयोक्ता उद्योग के हितों जैसे विभिन्न कारणों को ध्यान में रखकर, समय-समय पर किए जाते हैं।

Export of Mangoes

4012. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to boost export of Mangoes in great demand in international market; and

(b) the role of Andhra Pradesh in export of Mangoes this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The Government has taken various measures to boost export of mangoes and other horticultural products. These include:—

(i) Supply of quality planting material and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on integrated development of tropical, temperate and arid zone fruits;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment,

(iii) Provision of financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities;

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;

(v) Establishment of a vapour heat treatment facility for improving the acceptability of the product, especially mangoes, in overseas markets.

(vi) Arranging promotional campaigns in the potential markets overseas *including buyer-seller meets* with focus on mangoes, and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

(b) Andhra Pradesh is a major producer of mangoes and hence it could contribute substantially to the exports of mangoes. Export of mangoes (Banganpalli and Totapuri) from Andhra Pradesh by sea during the current crop season in CA and refrigerated container, to markets in South East Asia, Middle East and Europe is being undertaken on an experimental basis. Exporters from Andhra Pradesh are expected to participate in the buyer-seller meet on mangoes being planned to be organised in South East Asian countries this year.

Contract with Pakistan for Supply of Sugar

4013. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether STC had entered into contract with Pakistan for export of 25 thousand tonnes of sugar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that STC has failed to adhere to the contracted schedule and Pakistan has warned of revoking the contract;

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the reasons for failure of the STC to fulfil its contractual obligation for the supply of sugar to Pakistan; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to resolve the issues involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) STC offered to export 25,000 MTs of sugar to Trading Corporation of Pakistan on the condition of availability of the Indian Railway rakes and acceptance thereof by Pakistan Railways. Two rakes with a load of approximate 3643 MTs